



U.S.-Bavaria Relations

Why They Matter



People to People

- Bavaria – with Oktoberfest, castles, the Alps, and lederhosen - is the number one destination for U.S. tourists in Germany. In 2006, more than 600,000 Americans visited Bavaria. One in eight of the 1.4 million visitors to Oktoberfest in 2006 was American.
- There are nearly 40,000 Americans residing in Bavaria. Each year, the American Consulate General in Munich registers 500 Reports of Americans Born in Bavaria and renews 5,000 American passports.
- There are 31 sister city partnerships between Bavaria and the U.S.
- Consulate General Munich reopened its Nonimmigrant Visa section in July 2006 and processes 12,000 applications annually.
- There were 500,000 Bavarian immigrants to the U.S. in the 19th Century.
- There were 86,000 Bavarian immigrants to the U.S. in the last 10 years.
- Famous Bavarian immigrants to the U.S. include: Franz Daniel Pastorius; Levi Strauss; the Ochs family (New York Times); Emerenz Meier; Henry Kissinger; Oskar Maria Graf; Lion Feuchtwanger; Siegfried Fischbacher (of "Siegfried and Roy"); and Helmut Jahn (architect).

Economic

- The U.S. is Bavaria's largest trade partner for exports, and second largest for imports. 25 percent of Germany's \$130 billion in trade with the U.S. each year is with Bavaria.
- The U.S. is the biggest investor in Bavaria, with Microsoft, Hewlett Packard, General Electric, and Merck all located there.
- Munich is home to the largest contingent of U.S. state representative offices in Europe, promoting trade and investment in the U.S.
- Bavaria excels at "globalization" – BMW is the largest exporter of automobiles made in the U.S. Over 49 of the 182 companies that make up BMW's extensive global supplier network are located near BMW's Spartanburg, South Carolina production facility.
- Aircraft giant EADS, with headquarters in Munich and Paris, is a major strategic competitor with the U.S. (Airbus), and a significant defense supplier (Eurocopter).
- Bavaria is home to eight of the "DAX 30" firms, including Siemens, EADS, Allianz, BMW. Many have extensive U.S. operations. Siemens alone employing some 60,000 in the U.S.
- Bill Gates dubbed Bavaria the "European High Tech Mecca" – several U.S. tech firms, including TI and GE have chosen to settle in Bavaria. Of the 700 U.S. firms located in Bavaria, some 400 are in a high tech field.
- Munich is the insurance center of Germany, and second only to Frankfurt in Banking.
- Munich is the publishing capital of Europe, and world-wide, is second only to New York.
- With a gross national product of Euro 385.2 billion, Bavaria's economy is larger than 19 of the 25 EU member states.

- Munich is Germany's most important location for international exhibitions. The Munich "Messe" hosts about 40 trade shows per year and is strong both in consumer and investment goods. Some 30,000 exhibitors attract about 2 million visitors per year.
- Bavaria accounts for 28.3 percent of all German patent applications, although Bavaria has only about 15 percent of the population of Germany.

Military

- Bavaria is host to the largest contingent of U.S. Army forces in Europe, with the largest U.S. training area (Grafenwöhr) in Europe.
- 95% of Germany-based army combat forces are in Bavaria.

Political

- Bavaria is the only state in Germany with a distinct regional political party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), the sister to Chancellor Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) – only Bavarians can vote for the CSU (and they can't vote for the CDU).
- Munich is host to the annual Munich Conference on Security Policy – the "Davos" of the security policy world, with a strong U.S. delegation led by cabinet and Congressional-level participants.

Education

- 2,095 Bavarian (pre-university) exchange students went to the U.S. in 2005/2006; 1,413 U.S. students came to Bavaria.
- 446 U.S. students attended Bavarian universities in 2005/2006. There are approximately 210 exchange programs between Bavarian and U.S. universities.
- Bavaria is home to two of Germany's three "Elite" universities: Ludwig-Maximilians-University and the Technical University of Munich.
- Bavarian students outperformed students from other German states in all tested subject areas.

Prepared by the American Consulate General in Munich. For further information, please visit: <http://munich.usconsulate.gov/>